In the Claims:

Claims 1-11 (Cancelled)

12. (Currently amended) A method of producing a foam element, comprising:

placing a flexible fleece with a ferromagnetic coating directly thereon on a wall of a foam mold, said coating extending ~~across an entire~~ directly on a surface of the fleece facing and engaging the wall of the foam mold;

producing a magnetic field cooperating with the ferromagnetic coating on the fleece to hold detachably the fleece in position on the wall of the foam mold;

molding the foam element in the foam mold with the fleece on the wall thereof[[;]] to embed the fleece in the molded foam element; and

removing the molded foam element from the foam mold with the fleece embedded into a surface of the molded foam element [[as]] to form a barrier layer on the foam element.

13. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 12 wherein

the fleece is a polyester of 20 to 60 g/m^2.

14. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 13 wherein

said fleece is a PET fleece; and

the ferromagnetic coating is applied to said fleece at 60 to 100 g/m^2.

15. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 14 wherein

the ferromagnetic coating has a composition including 80 parts polyurethane and 20 parts ferrite powder, and is processed with a solvent into an easily spreadable material.

16. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 13 wherein

the ferromagnetic coating has a composition including 80 parts polyurethane and 20 parts ferrite powder, and is processed with a solvent into an easily spreadable material.

17. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 16 wherein

the polyurethane is SU-4715 from Firma Stahl;

the ferrite powder comprises iron particles of 10 microns; and

the solvent is l-butamone.

18. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 12 wherein

the ferromagnetic coating is applied to the fleece by a blade as an easily spreadable material.

19. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 12 wherein

the ferromagnetic coating is applied to the fleece by a nozzle as an easily spreadable material.

20. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 12 wherein

the ferromagnetic coating is applied as an easily spreadable material to the fleece on a carrier strip moved relative to an applicator.

21. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 12 wherein

the ferromagnetic coating is applied as an easily spreadable material directly to the fleece used as a carrier of the material.

22. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 21 wherein

the fleece is conveyed through a dryer after application of the easily spreadable material.

23. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 12 wherein

the ferromagnetic coating is applied by an applicator as an easily spreadable material as a layer on a strip of a silicon-coated carrier moved relative to the applicator; and

the strip of the carrier with the layer and a strip of the fleece are conveyed through a laminator to laminate the layer on the carrier onto the fleece.

24. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 23 wherein

the fleece is conveyed through a dryer after the laminator.

25. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 24 wherein

the carrier and the fleece are separated from one another following passage through the dryer.

26. (Currently amended) A foam element, comprising

a body of molded foam material; and

a barrier layer on one surface of said body, said barrier layer being a flexible fleece with a ferromagnetic coating directly thereon, said fleece being embedded into said surface of said body, said coating extending ~~entirely~~ across at a portion of a surface of said fleece.

27. (Previously presented) A foam element according to claim 26 wherein

said ferromagnetic coating is on a surface of said barrier layer remote from said body of molded foam material.

28. (Previously presented) A foam element according to claim 27 wherein

a surface of said barrier layer embedded into said surface of body is free of said ferromagnetic coating.

29. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 12 wherein

an inner surface of said fleece, opposite the ~~entire~~ surface with the ferromagnetic coating, is free of the ferromagnetic coating; and

said inner surface faces away from the wall of the foam mold when the fleece is placed on that wall for embedding in the foam element.

30. (New) A method of producing a foam element, comprising:

placing a flexible fleece with a flexible ferromagnetic coating directly thereon on a wall of a foam mold and conforming the fleece to a contour of the mold wall, said coating directly engaging the fleece extending across at least a portion of a surface of the fleece facing and directly engaging the wall of the foam mold;

producing a magnetic field cooperating with the ferromagnetic coating on the fleece to hold detachably the flexible fleece in position on and to shape and conform to the contour of the mold wall during molding;

molding the foam element in the foam mold with the fleece on the wall thereof to bind the fleece to the foam element; and

removing the molded foam element from the foam mold with the fleece embedded into a surface of the foam element as a barrier layer on the foam element.

31. (New) The method of claim 30 wherein

said mold includes permanent magnets to secure the flexible fleece in place during molding.

32. (New) The method of claim 31 wherein

said permanent magnets are positioned on an exterior surface of the mold; and

the said permanent magnets are arranged to coincide with the edges of the flexible fleece.

33. (New) The method of claim 31 wherein

the permanent magnets secure the fleece to the contour of the mold during molding to prevent the fleece from folding, warping or twisting.

34. (New) The method of claim 30 wherein

the flexible coating forms a wear resistant layer on said fleece.

35. (New) The method of claim 30 wherein

said coating extends entirely across said surface of said fleece.

36. (New) The method of claim 12 wherein

said coating extends entirely across said surface of said fleece.